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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/040,340	11/01/2001	David R. Davis	P1756US00	2531

24333 7590 03/28/2003

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EXAMINER

PHAN, THANH S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/040,340

Applicant(s)

DAVIS ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh S Phan

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 1-6 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hobbs et al. [5,877,938].

Hobbs disclose an information handling case [figure 1], comprising a chassis [figure 4] suitable for containing an electronic component; an access door [20] which covers the opening and removably mounted to the chassis, the access door suitable for permitting access to an electronic component contained in the computer chassis; and a release mechanism [90] adjacent to the access door, wherein the release mechanism is manually operable by a single hand of a user to release the access door from the chassis, the access door separating from the chassis upon manipulation of the release mechanism by the user.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7-13, 16-18, 20-26 and 28-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al. [US 5,877,938] in view of McMiller et al. [US 6,194,653] and Anderson [US 5,681,066].

Regarding claims 7, 9-13, 15-18 and 20- 33, Hobbs et al. disclose a computer case [figure 1] comprising: an access panel door [20] having a support body [figure 4] which extends so as to cover an opening a computer chassis having a perimeter and four sides; a chassis [figure 4] with an opening on one side for mounting the access panel door; a handle [figure 5] mounted on the access panel door; hinging element [120, figure 4a] formed on the access door panel door and the chassis opening such that the access door maybe removed from the chassis vias the hinge when the access panel door in the open position [column 3, line 57 through column 4, line 8].

Hobbs et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for EMI clip mounted on flanges surrounding the perimeter of the opening in the chassis cooperating with the panel access door and a handle being squeezable together and mounted on the chassis.

McMiller et al. disclose a casing [figure 1] for an electronic component having at least a plurality u-shaped EMI clips [figure 5] mounted on flanges surrounding a perimeter of the casing [116, figure 1] to receive a cover thereon.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use the EMI clip design of McMiller et al. with the access panel door of Hobbs et al. for the purpose of providing protection from EMI interference.

Anderson discloses a handle member [figure 1] formed of a support portion [12] supporting squeezable members [14] thereon engaging latch members.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to include the handle member of Anderson on the chassis of Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al., for the purpose of enabling one handed operation to release the access panel door.

Regarding claim 8, Hobbs et al. disclose a slot [figure 4a] for accepting the hinging elements of the access panel door.

Regarding claims 34-36, Hobbs et al. disclose the casing being made of metal.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use metal to form the casing of Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller and Anderson, for the purpose providing additional shielding.

Regarding claims 20-26, the method steps are necessitated by the apparatus structures.

Claims 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al. and Anderson, as applied to claim 11 and 18 above, and further in view of Casebolt [US 6,437,980].

Regarding claims 14 and 19, Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al. and Anderson disclose the instant claimed invention except for the use of a thumb screw mounted on the panel access door.

Casebolt discloses the use of a thumbscrew [figure 3b] mounted on a cover of a computer case.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to include a thumb screw on the panel door of Hobbs et al. in view of McMiller et al. and Anderson, as suggested by Casebolt for the purpose of securing the door in place and permitting quick release thereof.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cook et al. [6,157,532] ; Hulick et al. [5,825,626] ; Allen et al. [5,959,841].

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh S Phan whose telephone number is 703-305-0069. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S Martin can be reached on 703-308-3121. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7722 for regular communications and 703-305-7722 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

TSP
March 23, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Martin', with a stylized, elongated final stroke.

DAVID MARTIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800